



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Sept. 21, 2001

Local bomb threats bring out the dogs

by Capt. Carol Kanode
Public Affairs

Four bomb threats to three Pensacola schools had several 16th Security Forces Squadron working dog teams springing to action three consecutive days during the same week.

Called upon by Escambia County authorities Sept. 5, Staff Sgt. Guadalupe Cox, 16th SFS kennel master, assembled two dog and handler teams – Staff Sgt. Pedro Gonzalez and Military Working Dog Tim, and Senior Airman Joseph Hawkins and MWD Sonja – to go to both Ferry Pass Middle School and Booker T. Washington High School to search for explosives following phoned-in bomb threats.

The two teams and Sergeant Cox arrived at the middle school within one hour of receiving the call. It took about an hour before giving the all clear signal with no explosive devices found.

At the high school, about 1,700 students and faculty were already evacuated from the building. Sergeant Cox immediately got a map of the school. She set guidelines that included initiating a cordon, stopping additional people from enter-

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Pave Lows support relief efforts

by Tech. Sgt.
Ginger Schreitmuller
AFSOC Public Affairs

MH-53M Pave Low IV helicopters supported relief efforts in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Crews from the 20th Special Operations Squadron diverted to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., hours after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon, Sept. 11.

“The helicopters and crews were in North Carolina on a training mission when the call came in they were needed to support relief efforts,” said Col. Jim Connors, Air Force Special Operations Command director of operations. “They were in place at McGuire within 12 hours of notification.”

The Air Force has established a support hub at McGuire, located about halfway between New York City and the Pentagon. The base is serving as a staging area for many of the relief operations.

“We’re here to help in any way possible,” said Capt. David Tabor, one of the Pave Low pilots from the 20th SOS Green Hornets. “We’ve shuttled a Federal Emergency Management Agency search and rescue team to the Pentagon, and are prepared to provide whatever additional support is needed.”

The helicopter crews also transported rescue teams into New York City, near the World Trade Center, to assist with on-going search efforts there, said Colonel Connors. According to Captain Tabor, transporting the FEMA team to the Pentagon was a sobering experience.

“We landed in a grassy area 200-300



Photo by Gary Ell

An MH-53 Pave Low flies near lower Manhattan and the World Trade Center.

yards away from the damaged area,” he said. “It’s more grim in person than you can imagine; it really hit home.”

Witnessing the devastation firsthand hasn’t daunted the spirit of the Pave Low crews, said Captain Tabor.

“We’re anxious to do what we can to help any way we can,” he said. “The crews are motivated and the morale is high. There’s an overwhelming sense of professionalism and responsibility to accomplish our mission here.”

Whatever the Green Hornets are tasked to do while at McGuire, Captain Tabor said there’s no better airframe to make it happen than the Pave Low.

“The Pave Low’s high-lift capability and ‘long-legs’ make it an ideal platform

for these type of operations,” said the captain. “Combine that with the helicopter’s air refueling capabilities and the crews training and experience with night flying, the Pave Low is an amazing asset to such operations.”

The helicopter’s capabilities make it a perfect asset for relief efforts such as this, said Colonel Connors.

“The Pave Low is the largest and most powerful helicopter in the Air Force inventory, and the most technologically advanced helicopter in the world,” he said. “It has an unlimited range with aerial refueling.”

Supporting humanitarian operations is

See **PAVE LOWS**, Page 5

News



Airman rescuers

New York firefighters double as Reserve and Guard airmen
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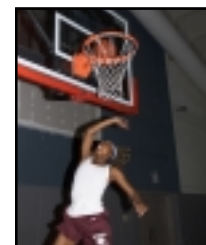
Feature



Hooch heritage

A place base airmen come to relax
Page 10

Sports



Women’s basketball

Players get fired up for fall season
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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, prepares to go on an all-terrain vehicle for a guided tour of the base perimeter. Master Sgt. Gene Earley, 16th Security Forces Squadron, coordinated the tour.

No way in

Comment: I'm a retiree who was stationed here for nine years. Recently I tried to go through the gate, but they wouldn't let me on base. I just got a new car and when I went to Pass and ID for stickers, they'd run out of the Hurlburt Field portion of the sticker. I wanted to put them all on together so they'd be neat since I only come on base every two or three months. I showed the stickers to the gate guard, but was told that wasn't any good, they had to be on my vehicle. The person wouldn't give me a temporary pass either.

Reply: It's unfortunate that you were not issued a temporary pass. If you had your retiree ID card, proof of insurance and vehicle registration you should have been allowed to enter the base with a visitor's pass. We're currently reviewing our installation entry control processes to ensure this doesn't occur again. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

CFC makes a difference

by Col. Lyle Koenig,
16th SOW commander

The Combined Federal Campaign is your chance to make a difference. The CFC represents more than 1,400 charities that help local, national and international organizations provide meals for hungry children, disaster relief for families, comfort for the dying and more. This is an opportunity for our Hurlburt Field community to help make life better for someone else.

In the past, only a small percentage of Hurlburt Field has donated. Last year, with only 27 percent of the base contributing, we raised more than \$288,000. While this is an incredible amount of money, I think we can do better. I'd like to see a push to increase participation to 40 percent of the

people on this base. Every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a difference to the worthy causes of the CFC.

Reflecting on the tragic events that occurred last week, I'm sure everyone can find an organization to support and help our fellow Americans affected by these terrorist acts.

Whether you know someone who's ill, needs community support, family assistance, or other charitable acts, the organizations of CFC can and do help. Now it's our turn to help, and I'm confident that we'll reach the goal of 40 percent participation. Please look deep into your wallets and heart to make a contribution. We began the campaign Sept. 17, and I look forward to a successful campaign where we'll all be part of the solution.

If you fly our flag, ensure you're flying it with pride

by Tech. Sgt.
Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

Across the nation, Old Glory is the centerpiece of attention. She hangs from windows, flagpoles and car antennas.

With stars and stripes proud and clear, the American Flag and the American people are showing their true colors. An image of New York firefighters hoisting the American Flag amidst the rubble of the World Trade Center has been likened to the image of Marines boosting Old Glory high over the battlefield of Iwo Jima. Many have also

been brought to tears by images of Pentagon workers unfurling the American Flag from the rooftop.

With the renewed sense of patriotism comes unintentional improper flag useage. Title 36, United States Code, Sections 173-178, address the rules and customs in showing the proper respect for our flag.

If you fly our flag, ensure you're flying it with pride. Among the items covered by the code, are:

Displaying the flag at night – It's the universal custom to display the flag only

See **FLAG**, Page 7



Arla Behnke

Base community mourns loss

by Cynthia Turzak
16th Mission Support Squadron

Retired Staff Sergeant Arla Behnke, 16th Mission Support Squadron, passed away Sept. 12 in Charleston, S.C., after a year-long battle with cancer. "Arla was a special lady that touched everyone she met," said Master Sgt. Richard Ray, former 16th MSS first sergeant. "She could have a bad day, yet she always had a positive attitude and a smile on her face."

Sergeant Behnke's previous assignments include Clark Air Base, Phillipines, and Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. In December, 1999, she was assigned to the 16th MSS as the NCO in charge of career enhancements.

She is survived by her husband, Tech. Sgt. Mike Behnke, Det. 7, 373rd Training Squadron, and their three children, Anthony, Brad and Kristen.



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NEWS

Helping our own

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Kempke, 16th Logistics Support Squadron NCOIC, command support staff, and Master Sgt. Gloria Jones, 16th LSS first sergeant, examine items to be transferred to the Airman's Attic. The new Airman's Attic, at building 90604, holds its grand opening Monday at 1 p.m. Once open, it will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Airman's Attic provides household goods to senior airmen and below with dependents.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Byron

DOGS, Continued from Page 1

ing the building and halting cellular phone or radio use. As a spotter, Sergeant Cox walked ahead of the working dog teams, searching for anything that looked out of place, or suspicious items like displaced wires. The handlers said their adrenaline surged as they combined with the other Escambia County working dog team, searching classrooms, hallways, the gym, cafeteria and outside of the building.

A similar routine occurred again the next morning at Booker T. Washington High School when another bomb threat

was called in and the Pensacola Police Department called for assistance. Staff Sgt. Benjamin Reynolds and MWD Sara responded, along with Airman Hawkins and Sonja who were recalled from their day off. But the search ended with the same results.

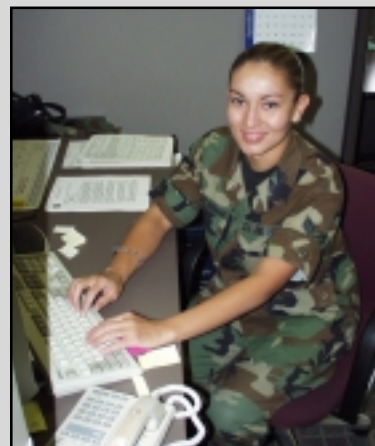
Sergeant Gonzalez, Airman Hawkins and their dogs returned to Booker T. Washington High School with Sergeant Cox Friday about 7 a.m., when Escambia authorities requested their assistance again. They were also called to search Pine Forrest High School but the Escambia K-9 team completed that bomb search while the military teams combed the first high school.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Senior Airman Joseph Hawkins, 16th Security Forces Squadron, leads Sonja, a Military Working Dog with bomb-sniffing skills, over a stair-step obstacle.

Spotlight on ...



Iveth Galvez-Guzman

Name: Iveth Galvez-Guzman

Rank/Duty Title: Airman 1st Class – career enhancements representative

Organization: 16th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Kenner, La.

Hobbies: School, working out, dancing and watching movies

Contribution to the mission: Airman Galvez-Guzman is an outstanding young airman who's a crucial member of the career enhancements section. As the Enlisted Progress Report and Officer Progress Report monitor, she has processed more than 8,700 reports. She's recieved, processed, and updated more than 400 decoration packages for assigned base personnel, and has assisted in processing more than 120 reenlistment contracts and 215 extension contracts.

She helped create an automated tracking system for the Initial Enlistment Bonus program that identifies first term airmen who haven't recieved their enlistment bonus payments, and has identified more than 200 airmen eligible for bonuses. She also briefs all reenlistment eligible first-term airmen on the benefits of reenlistment during the Informed Choice briefings.

(Editor's Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior Ns, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, but who may not receive much recognition day-to-day. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

While school officials were frustrated by the disruptions, they were also thankful for Hurlburt Field's efforts.

"What Hurlburt Field did was help the students get back into their educational setting several hours ahead of what they normally would have without the military's support," said Lt. Dale Tharp, Escambia Sheriff's Department, in charge of the school resource program. "As a citizen of Escambia County, this is just another great thing the military has done to be part of the community. I've been in contact with our superintendent of schools this morning, and he is very appreciative of what you all have done."

While there's no monetary cost to the school system for the military teams' response, there are other costs.

"It stresses the dog and handler. They're constantly working the entire time and you never know what you're going to find," Sergeant Cox said.

"The long period of times we have to search is tough," said Airman Hawkins, elaborating on the strain. "Because this is real world, we can't just stop, like in training, when the dog needs a break."

He said another hazard is responding in rush-hour morning traffic. Since their response is for a civil disturbance where people's lives could be endangered, they respond quickly, and often cars won't move out of the way, even with sirens blazing.

Still, with their leadership's approval, the K-9 teams say they are happy to help the community. But SFS members were quick to point out that their military mission comes first. They must ensure military readiness isn't impacted.

"Our primary mission is Hurlburt Field and we can never leave it uncovered," said Sergeant Cox.

AIR FORCE NEWS

Secretary, chief on Air Force's 54th birthday

by **James G. Roche**,
secretary of the Air Force and
Gen. John P. Jumper,
Air Force chief of staff

WASHINGTON – Within two short years following victory in World War II, our nation's leaders confronted a dramatically new strategic and technological environment. The global alliance against fascism had yielded to Cold War, and new weapons systems introduced in the previous conflict promised to fundamentally change the nature of warfare. At the same time, our own defense budget and military manpower shrank considerably as our people turned from wartime military mobilization to peaceful domestic pursuits. Our armed forces, which were organized so successfully to defeat the Axis powers, were faced with a more complex set of roles and missions. In short, it was a time – much like today – that demanded innovation, vision, and transformation.

President Truman rose to that challenge when he signed the National Security Act of 1947, creating our contemporary defense establishment, including the United States Air Force. Since that time, the men and women of America's Air Force have ceaselessly and selflessly mastered the challenges of a changing world. From the heroic airlift in Berlin to the awesome displays of global vigilance, reach and power

See **BIRTHDAY**, Page 5

Troops in Argentina honor attack victims

CAMP GENERAL BELGRANO, Argentina — Staff Sgt. Zaki Mazid bowed his head in prayer. Dark sunglasses hid the anguish in his eyes, but they couldn't hide the pain in his heart.

A lump formed in his throat as a Navy chaplain eulogized the victims of the vicious terrorist attacks on the United States. Around Sergeant Mazid, soldiers and sailors also prayed. Hardened servicemembers sobbed aloud as some covered their faces.

All felt the pain of a nation in mourn-

ing after an evil act. They felt the dishonor of the innocent victims for whom they prayed.

"My heart reaches out to all the people who lost families in the attacks, and our comrades who perished in the Pentagon," said Sergeant Mazid, an Air Force information manager with U.S. Special Operations Command South.

The command's home base is Naval Air Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Sergeant Mazid is one of several

hundred U.S. troops still in Salta, a city 800 miles north of Buenos Aires. Like the others, he was here to take part in the Cabañas 2001, a multinational peacekeeping exercise that ended here, Sept. 11.

"It helps those far from home identify with that larger community back home that's also grieving," said Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) John Franklin, who set up the memorial service.

He also said it's important for people to come together at a time like this, and it helps them get through the grieving process.

Most important, Commander Franklin said, the memorial service gives troops — who've sworn to defend the rights of the innocent and defenseless — an outlet for their anger.

It allows them to redirect their desire for revenge, their need as soldiers to right a wrong.

"There's no justice in revenge," he said. "So we

must redirect our anger toward what is just and right, even in the face of such injustice."

Some 50 troops were at the service, held outside the headquarters of the American

"Americans have every right to be angry, to hunt down those who committed these murders."

— Argentine Army 1st Sgt.
Carlos Montenegro



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lance Cheung

Staff Sgt. Zaki Mazid, with U.S. Special Operations Command South, and Army Maj. Mark Ratliff, with the Army Special Forces, were among the U.S. troops in Argentina who attended a memorial service at Camp General Belgrano for the victims of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

task force. The camp band played Taps with an Argentinean flair that was both soulful and respectful.

Argentine Army 1st Sgt. Carlos Montenegro, of the camp's host unit, the 5th Mechanized Brigade, watched the event. He, too, felt a sadness that he couldn't describe.

"To kill innocent people, and in such a manner, is a cowardly and un-Godly act," he said. "Americans have every right to be angry, to hunt down those who committed these murders."

After the ceremony, some troops went back to work. Others sought a quiet place to continue grieving.

Sergeant Mazid believes his fellow troops will fare well as will most Americans. He believes America's leaders will keep a cool head and find the resolve to bring the terrorists and those who helped them to justice.

At this small camp, the memorial service had an immediate affect.

"I think it helped us spiritually — and helped us keep our heads up and move forward," Sergeant Mazid said. (AFPN)

Look who's talking: What Air Force custom or courtesy do you see abused the most?



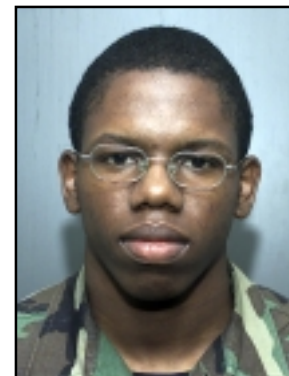
"Failure to honor and respect the U.S. flag as it's being raised and retrieved at military installations."

Maj. Robert Banks
Command and Control
Warrior School



"Using first names to address one-another instead of using rank."

Staff Sgt. Laura Price
16th Medical Group



"When newly-assigned airmen start to call their superiors by their first name."

Airman 1st Class Huey Watson
16th Civil Engineer
Squadron

PAVE LOWS,
Continued from Page 1

not a new experience for the Pave Low teams.

“The vast majority of us here

have been involved in humanitarian relief and, search and rescue operations around the world. What we can do here are the things we’ve trained for and done in places such as Mozambique and Kosovo,” said the captain.



Photo by Gary Ell

An MH-53 Pave Low, capable of transporting up to 38 troops or 14 litters, flies over lower Manhattan in support of relief efforts.

BIRTHDAY,
Continued from Page 4

in Desert Storm and Allied Force, and from peacekeeping missions in the Balkans to humanitarian operations in Africa, America’s Air Force has enabled aerospace power to serve the cause of peace and freedom.

In the past 54 years, our airmen have served with an extraordinary combination of integrity, selflessness, and creativity across the spectrum of operations. Whether standing on guard for deterrence in Europe or Asia, conducting joint combat operations, helping to make the Expeditionary Aerospace Force succeed, or manning our logistics and support functions at home, no one comes close.

We paused Tuesday to re-

member the day our great Air Force began this journey. We pause to reflect on our mission and our purpose, especially in light of the recent attack on our nation. We’re extremely proud of the service and contributions of America’s Air Force men and women – your vigilance and response was quick and purposeful, potentially limiting the extent of this terrible tragedy.

Airmen everywhere will now move forward to meet the challenge of today’s threat. We extend our heartfelt best wishes and Godspeed to our world class team of active duty airmen, Air National Guardsmen, Air Force employees, and Air Force reservists, retirees, veterans and their families as we commemorate the Birthday of the United States Air Force.



Increased Travel Security Measures

by Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Lewis
16th Transportation Squadron

In response to the recent terrorist attacks, the Federal Aviation Administration has instituted the following increased airport security measures across the United States.

These measures are effective immediately. Expect delays. Travelers need to arrive at the airport two hours prior to departure for domestic flights and three hours prior for international flights.

All passengers must have in their possession, a valid government-issued photo identification (driver's license, federal agency employee ID or passport) for check-in. This ID may be required to pass through security screening as well. Stepped up security measures are:

- Discontinued curbside check-in and off airport baggage acceptance.

- Discontinued off-airport check-in. No longer allow passengers to check in for flights at hotels or other venues. Passengers must check in at the airport.

- Limit access through the checkpoint and concourse area to authorized personnel and passengers with valid paper tickets, e-ticket itinerary receipts, printed ticket confirmations or boarding passes.

- No knives of any length or

description shall be allowed on planes or beyond the screening checkpoint.

- Ground security coordinators shall immediately notify airport security coordinators or designees of suspicious items or activities at the airport.

- Be prepared to be searched. Your bags may be opened and searched; you may be searched, questioned or asked to present ID without warning. Don't travel with suspicious or questionable items.

- Computer-profiled or randomly selected checked baggage will be extensively inspected. Selected checked baggage will be checked using explosive detection system equipment, or physically searched in the presence of the selectee.

- Inspections of passengers with hand-held metal detectors shall be conducted continuously at each walk-through metal detector.

- Crewmembers and service personnel will be inspected and screened prior to boarding the aircraft.

- The interior and all open exterior access compartments of the aircraft will be thoroughly searched prior to boarding any passengers. An FAA certified K-9 explosives team will conduct the search.

- Passenger airlines will no longer accept mail or cargo.

FLAG, *Continued from Page 2*

from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Flying the flag at half staff – staff is the term used in reference to the flagpole. Mast is a term used on board ships.

Attaching the flag to a vehicle – When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis (the car's frame) or clamped to the right fender. Instead of placing our

flag on an antenna, use red, white and blue ribbons or streamers.

Respect for the flag – The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise. It should never be used as clothing, bedding or drapery.

More information on flag protocol is available at the base and public libraries.

Many veterans' organizations and patriotic agencies are posting information about the proper display of Old Glory on their Web sites. You can

also find a complete electronic copy of the U.S. Code at Cornell University's Web site: <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode>



Airmen apply skills to twin towers rescue

NEW YORK — The first thing that hits people is the intense acrid smell and smoke still billowing from fires more than two days after the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Among the thousands of rescue and recovery workers are more than 100 airmen, reservists and guardsmen, wearing state and city police and firefighting uniforms.

"It's horrible," said Tech. Sgt. Nick Marchisello, a fire fighter with the 514th Civil Engineering Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N. J. "It's like walking into hell."

Sergeant Marchisello, a 17-year veteran, is in New York with the Clifton Fire Department from New Jersey. His current job is to look for survivors. Search and rescue dogs from the Bergen County Sheriff's Department have gone ahead of the firefighters in search of survivors. It will be the job of Sergeant Marchisello and his fellow team members to rescue them, should the dogs discover anyone.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Latona, a member of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, N. Y., is also a firefighter from Clifton. Sergeant Latona compares what he sees now to his time on active duty in the Air Force when he served in Africa.

"I served in Rwanda," he said. "You expected to see it there. Going in there, you expected to see death and devastation, but to be here like this is just ...," Sergeant Latona didn't finish the sentence, staring in disbelief at the wreckage before him.

"I've looked at this skyline my whole life," the sergeant said, referring to the towering 110-story twin towers. "They were there, and now they're gone."

His service in the Air Force has helped him prepare for the mission facing him now.

"Being in Rwanda totally changed my outlook on life," Sergeant Latona said. "I've learned to appreciate what I've got and I've learned to be there to help people. Being in the military has made me a better fireman and prepared me to do what I have to do."

But, he said, nothing can fully prepare a firefighter for what is encountered during an actual disaster.

"Seeing this destruction is unbelievable," Sergeant Marchisello said. "I can only hope that we can still bring people out alive."

Airman 1st Class Francis Perillo, from the 106th Air Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Airport, N. Y., is here to help as well.

As part of the New York City Emergency Response Team, Airman Perillo is spending his off-duty time combing through the rubble searching for survivors.

"I felt something inside me," said Airman Perillo, a native of Bayshore, N. Y. "I just had to do something. It's

horrifying. I've broken down in tears. I've learned just how precious life is. I'm here looking for people and to do what I can."

Airman Perillo walks away. He and others are off to seek pas-

sages to the underground subway tunnels that might contain survivors.

A feeling of patriotism pervades the entire atmosphere around the remains of the once glorious buildings in downtown Manhattan. American flags are everywhere — on hats, on taxis,

on radio antennas, even on makeshift flagpoles in the destruction zone.

Messages of encouragement can be seen everywhere. "God Bless Us", "America Will Prevail," and most poignantly, "Rest In Peace to those who died ... we will not forget." (AFPN)



Photo by Capt. Jim Fabio

Staff Sgt. Anthony Latona, a New York Air National Guardsman and New Jersey firefighter, awaits the order to enter the rubble of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Look who's new in pink and blue

Girls

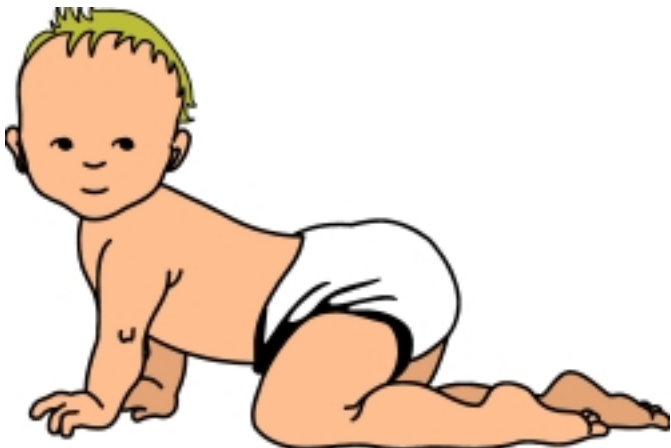
Kiley Jane, born July 31, to Staff Sgt. Matthew and Jennifer Dickens, Air Force Special Operations Command.

Maia Christine, born Aug. 10, to Capt. Eric and Christine Zihmer, 4th Special Operations Squadron.

Adriana Isabella, born Aug. 22, to Maj. Amadeo and Genevieve Garza, AFSOC.

Brieva Melisse, born Aug. 22, to Senior Airman Brent and Destiny Sanders, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Breeanna, born Aug. 29, to Staff Sgt. Daryl and Bonnie Eidenier, 20th Special Operations Squadron.



Brianna Rose, born Aug. 30, to Staff Sgt. Jens Hansen, 20th SOS and Staff Sgt. Dawn Hansen, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron.

8, to Senior Airman James and Melani Barnes, 16th Communications Squadron

Kennedy, born Aug. 6, to Master Sgt. Lanier and Faith Gray, 16th Logistics Support Squadron.

Boys

Caden Alexander, born June

Special OPERATORS



Joseph Babcock

FEATURE

Best little hooch house in Florida

by Jane Bergquist
Contributing Staff Writer

"...Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came..."

The familiar lyrics for those who remember the sitcom "Cheers" or perhaps have seen it in syndicated reruns, could easily be the theme song for our friendly neighborhood Hurlburt Field meeting places, also known as hooches.

Unless a visitor came looking for them, they wouldn't suspect the two innocuous buildings tucked away over on the Soundside are the meeting places for officer and enlisted members, Tuesday through Friday from afternoon into the evening.

The Officers' Hooch, or more aptly named Combat Connie's, has been in its current form and location for more than 11 years.

Connie Taylor has been the only manager since the O-Hooch opened June 29, 1990. It's clear when you meet her that this is more than a job to her; it is a labor of love and friendship.

Connie considers all her customers VIP's and has learned to never say good-bye, only "see you later," because so many people come back to Hurlburt Field on repeat assignments.

Officially, Connie and her counterpart, Sharon Reynolds, bartender at the Enlisted Hooch, work for the 16th Services Squadron.

However, after listening to Connie and Sharon talk about the people who have passed through the hooches' doors and into Hurlburt Field history, you learn that these small, non-descript buildings are so much more than initially meets the eye.

The expression, "if these walls could talk," applies at Combat Connie's because they do! The graffiti, pictures, flags, unit crests, and other interesting mementos that decorate the wall, weave a tapestry of personalities and history that reflect the lives of those who've served their country through the unique culture of Air Force Special Operations.

It also serves as a memorial to the dedicated warriors of Spirit 03 who were lost during Desert Storm.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Samuel Taylor

Different squadrons and units donated memorabilia that gives the O-Hooch its unique décor.

The Enlisted Hooch has a beautiful view overlooking the water. The building was constructed by senior NCO's and is maintained strictly by volunteers.

Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Moser, of the 4th Special Operations Squadron, said the atmosphere is great for interacting outside of work, and the hooch even provides an informal opportunity to develop camaraderie that connects people to each other and their traditions. It's a nice way to put an end to the week and solve problems.

The Top Three group meets at the E-Hooch the first Thursday of every month and the Chiefs group meets the third Tuesday.

There's a long-standing practice of celebrating promotions and other kinds of parties at the hooch.

One of the best deals at Combat Connie's is the Wednesday Steak Night. For \$6.50, dinner includes salad, baked potato, roll and a rib eye steak you cook yourself on the outside grill. It's great in the middle of the week to have an easy meal with friends.

Recently, the Enlisted Hooch was the site of the annual horseshoe tossing contest.

Take time to come by and visit with old and new friends at these very special gathering places for Hurlburt Field's Special Operators.

Your mug is waiting and so is the friendly greeting you'll receive when you step inside the best little hooch houses in Florida!



(above) "Combat Connie" Taylor, has a few laughs with one of her O-Hooch patrons.

(far left) Retired Col. Skip Holler, right, grills some steaks for himself and retired Lt. Col. Max Friedauer on the patio of the hooch during Wednesday's Steak Night.

(left) The O-Hooch's distinctive flag hovers over the entrance and is easily recognizable.

LIFESTYLE

Military

Team leaders needed

The Commando Pride Airman Center is looking for highly motivated individuals to serve as team leaders. Duties include assisting with the daily operations of CPAC. The detail is for 120 days, starting in September.

To qualify you must be between the ranks of senior airman through technical sergeant and completed Airman Leadership School, have impeccable dress and appearance, high moral character, a driver's license, good communication skills, computer skills and a desire to assist first-term airmen. For more information, call Master Sgt. Andrew Hollis at 884-5795 or 5787.

Travel voucher

Effective Oct. 31, travel voucher claims for all military members will require a supervisor signature before the member is reimbursed. This requirement is mandatory for all temporary duty and permanent change of station settlements for military. Travel vouchers submitted after Oct. 31 without proper signatures will be sent back to the member and will cause a delay in reimbursement. The 16th Comptroller Squadron will provide each unit orderly room with a checklist for supervisors and approving officials. For more information or questions, call the travel section at 884-4061.

Community

Vehicle inspections

The Florida Highway Patrol will conduct driver license and vehicle inspection checkpoints during October in locations throughout Okaloosa County. Troopers will concentrate their efforts on vehicles being operated with defects such as bad brakes, worn tires and defective lighting equipment in addition to violations of driver license laws of Florida.

New Thrift Shop hours

The Thrift Shop is open from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for consignments and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for sales each Monday. The added evening hours are in addition to the regular hours of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon for consignments and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for sales. The shop also opens on the first and third Saturday of each month. For more information, call 884-3098.

Blood donations

People interested in donating blood can do so at one of the following blood donation centers: American Red Cross, 417 NW Racetrack Road, 863-3359, and Northwest Florida Blood Center, 413 NE Racetrack Road, 862-4216.

Craft Bazaar

The annual Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Spouses

Craft Bazaar takes place Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds. There will be vendors, food and a silent auction. For more information, call Kathryn Pfauth at 729-2292.

Chapel positions

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel has the following positions open for bid: 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. Protestant Accompanist; 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Catholic Accompanist; 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Director and Catholic Parish Coordinator. The statement of work and bid submission packages can be picked up at the 16th Contracting Squadron, 350 Tully Street, Bldg. 90339. Bids must be received by 2 p.m., Monday. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Joanne Burgess at 884-7795.

Contract positions

The Hurlburt Field Base Education Office is advertising three contract positions. The positions are education and distance learning counselors and a test proctor. Qualifications for the positions and bid packages may be picked up at the 16th Contracting Squadron, 350 Tully Street, Building 90339.

Religious services

The Eglin Air Force Base Jewish High Holy Day schedule is as follows:

Yom Kippur – Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. (Kol Nidre), Thursday, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Yizkor and Ne'ilah) Break the Fast.

All services will be held at the Eglin AFB Chapel Center. For more information, call Bernie or Wendy Snyder at 678-2444 or the chapel at 882-2111.

Native-American/Indian Heritage

November is Native-American/Indian Heritage Month. Spouses, civilians and military members who'd like to serve on the committee can attend weekly meetings. The committee is also looking for a chairperson. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Lynetta Williams at 884-8746 or Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

Paintball

The Hurlburt Field Paintball Field is open Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by reservation only, and there must be a minimum of 20 people. The cost is \$12 per person and includes all equipment and \$8 if people provide their own equipment. Each player receives 100 free paintballs. For more information, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 884-6939 or 4097.

Photo contest

Challenge your photography skills with the Air Force 2001 Photography Contest. The contest is open to active duty military and their family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and reservists. Categories of competition include: people, military life, computer imaging enhancement, creative effect, and nature scenic. All entries may be turned in at the Skills Development center Oct. 1 through 12. For more information call 884-6942.



Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)

Youth and Single Groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1
Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

Friday – (R) "The Score," starring Robert De Niro and Edward Norton – An aging thief has retired to live off his riches, running a Montreal jazz lounge until he's blackmailed into doing one more heist by a young upstart. The unlikely alliance requires that Nick violate his most important rule: Always work alone.

Saturday – (PG) "Osmosis Jones," starring Bill Murray and Molly Shannon – Deep in the city of Frank (actually the body of construction worker Frank Detomello), Osmosis Jones is a white blood cell cop whoteams up with a rookie cold tablet to fight off evil viruses intent on taking over. Meanwhile out in the "real world" a doctor is trying to diagnose what's going on inside Frank's body.

Sunday – (R) "Original Sin," starring Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie – When Luis takes Julia as his American bride, he thinks his life in Cuba is complete. But people aren't always who they seem, and Luis' life begins to unravel. When Julia disappears with his money, Luis is forced to look into Julia's past.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday – Eglin Air Force Base Theater closes for remodeling.

Sept. 28 – (R) "American Pie 2," starring Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan – The summer after their first year of college, the boys rent a beach house and vow to make this the best summer ever. As it turns out, they discover that times change and people change, but in the end it's all about sticking together.

Sept. 29 – (G) "The Princess Diaries," starring Julie Andrews and Anne Hathaway – Teenager Mia Thermopolis is thrown for a loop when she learns the astonishing news that she's a real-life princess. She must make the biggest decision of her life, whether to remain with her family or leave everything behind to accept the royal responsibilities that comes with being the Princess of Genovia.

Sept. 30 – (PG-13) "American Outlaws," starring Colin Farrell and Nathaniel Arcand – As Confederate soldiers in the Civil War, the James boys and their cousins, the Youngers, became expert killers that were able to live off the land for long periods of time and skilled in attacking their enemies' supply lines. The gang would later use the skills they gained from the war against railroads and banks.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled play dates.)

LIFESTYLE

Classes

PJC classes

All Pensacola Junior College classes at the Naval Air Station have been reassigned to the Warrington campus until further notice. For more information, call 484-1792.

USAF Special Ops School

For more information on Special Operations School Courses for September, call 884-4731 or check the Web site: hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos.

Joint Senior Psychological Operations Course – Oct. 9 to 12

Introduction to Special Operations Course – Oct. 10 to 11

Joint Special Operations Staff Officer Course – Oct. 15 to 19

Sub-Saharan Orientation Course – Oct. 15 to 19

Dynamics of International Terrorism – Oct. 22 to 26

Latin American Orientation Course – Oct. 22 to 26

Special Operations Liaison Element – Oct. 22 to 26

Cross Cultural Communications – Oct. 29 to Nov. 2

Joint Civil – Military Operations Course, Level II – Oct. 29 to Nov. 2

Joint Special Operations Planning Workshop – Oct. 29 to Nov. 9

Joint Special Operations Pre-Command Course – Oct. 29 to Nov. 3

FSC

For more information on Family Support Center classes, call 884-5441.

Resumé Workshop – Monday, at 1 p.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday for ages birth to 2 and Wednesday for ages 2 to 4, at 10 a.m.

Single Parents – Tuesday, at noon

Car Seat Safety – Tuesday, at 3:30 p.m.

Understanding Adolescents – Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m.

Fighting for Your Marriage – Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.

Culture Shock – Friday, at 11 a.m.

Sports

Bench press competition

The fitness center hosts their annual bench press competition Saturday at 9 a.m. The cost is \$15 and sign

up sheets are available at the main and Commando Fitness Centers. For more information, call 884-4412 or 6884.

Women's football

The women's football team is looking for more players and a coach. The team is open to spouses and family members 18 and older who're out of high school. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Norman Williams at 884-5879 or the fitness center at 884-6949.

Flag football

October begins men and women's flag football season., Interested members should contact their unit sports representative or the Main Fitness Center for more information at 884-6884.

Women's basketball

Varsity basketball players are needed for the women's team. Practices are held Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. For more information, call 884-6949.

Basketball officials needed

People interested in officiating basketball games for the youth and intramural leagues, contact Roy Spencer at 581-4587.

SPORTS

Women poised for shoot out during basketball season

by **Staff Sgt. André Nicholson**
Public Affairs

With practices having begun in August, the Hurlburt Field women's basketball team is prepared for a long season. The first game is scheduled for October and if all the practicing and hard work pays off, the season will be long but rewarding. Teams are broken down into two separate divisions with Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, Keesler AFB, Miss. and Tyndall AFB, Fla. all falling under the West division. Columbus AFB, Miss., Fort Benning, Ga., Maxwell AFB, Ala. and Moody AFB, Ga., falling under the East division.

Head Coach Brian Mitchell, 18th Flight Test Squadron, said he appreciates the hard work the women put into the practices every week. He said they're always looking for more players. If interested in playing for the women's basketball team, call 884-7556.

Hurlburt Field Women's Basketball Team Roster

Christel Chavez, 15th Special Operations Squadron
Lavosha Davis, 16th Mission Support Squadron
Erica Epps, 16th Special Operations Wing
Monica Jackson, 20th Special Operations Squadron
Teri Lee, family member
Tané McKinney, family member
Jessica Moore, 16th Component Repair Squadron
Jessica Suschana, 16th Communications Squadron
Brandi Thomas, 16th Services Squadron
Cheryl Trapnell, Air Force Special Operations Command
Brian Mitchell, 18th Flight Test Squadron, head coach
Terrance Taylor, 15th SOS, assistant coach



Photos by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas



(top) Cheryl Trapnell guards Lavosha Davis as she dribbles toward the basket

(left) Teri Lee attempts a layup during weekly practice as Lavosha Davis looks on.

(far left) The women practice each Tuesday and Thursday by going over drills and playing scrimmage games against each other in preparation for the upcoming season.